

Sheep without a Shepherd
Matthew 9:35-36, 23:37
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the real problem of sheep failing to choose the Shepherd.

Introduction

I. Reasons why some sheep do not follow the Shepherd

A. The belief you know best

1. **Man often, by their actions and even their words, believe they know best and that they will “handle” things.**
2. **This way of thinking has failed repeatedly (Pro 13:15, Pro 14:12)**

B. Your trust issues

1. When you rely on yourself alone you show God, you do not trust Him.
2. How do you show you have trust issues with God?
 - a. You are not faithful to Him.
 - i. It's impossible to show faithfulness your faithfulness to God by your unfaithfulness
 - b. You don't pray to God as you should
 - i. It's impossible to have a relationship with someone you don't talk to.
 - c. You don't read and study as you should.
 - i. It's impossible to really know God if you don't try to know Him
 - d. You do not make God a priority
 - i. It's impossible to show God He is important when He is not important

C. Your belief that your beliefs are right.

1. I don't see anything wrong with it..... **Isa 55:9**
2. It's easier and more convenient this way...**Malachi 1:13**
3. I don't think it's sin so I don't care.....**Judges 21:25**
4. No one knows.....**Psalms 94:7-10**

II. Warnings about attitudes towards God and the Church

A. God and the church are NOT a panic button.

1. God is there for the faithful, not the rebellious person in need.
 - a. This is a problem that is seen repeatedly, coming to God only when you need Him.
2. If you don't like it when people only coming to you when they need something - imagine how God must feel.

B. God is bigger than “Holidays”

1. If you want to be faithful to God it will take more than coming on days tradition says are important.
2. One can only imagine how life would be if God only showed up for “important” days.

C. You cannot blame others for your own unfaithfulness.

1. No one can make you disobey God, it's your choice.
 - a. Church buildings do not move over night.
2. Either you choose to follow God or you don't.
3. Excuses are for the unfaithful not for those who love God.

III. Lessons for us Today

A. Obeying the gospel is just the beginning

1. When you obey the scriptures, the life of faith begins.
2. One would do well to start with the basics of faithfulness and from here – build up their faith (**2 Pt 1:5-9**)

B. Those who think they deserve heaven – DON'T

1. No one goes to heaven because they think they have earned it.
 - a. Often it's the most unfaithful people who think this way
2. It's hard to argue for heaven when your life is in opposition to the very path that leads to heaven.

C. God is your only hope

1. He wants you to be saved - **Matthew 23:37**
2. He wants you to have the forgiveness of your sins – **2 Pt 3:9**

Application & Conclusion:

1. If you are not allowing God to be your shepherd, you must ask yourself why.
2. If you have a hard time convincing others of your reasons for not being faithful-it will be impossible for Christ to be convinced on judgment day.
3. At the end of the day – man must choose to follow God no matter what and choose to do so TODAY.
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9